



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4**

Subject: **Situation Report (SitRep) # 1**
 Eden NC Coal Ash Spill
 Lat: 36.4958644, Long: -79.7220632

To: **Distribution List**

From: **Region 4 Regional Emergency Operations Center**

Reporting Period: **1700 02/03/2014 to 1600 02/04/2014**

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Name:	Eden NC Ash Spill	Location:	Eden, NC
Incident Date:	02/03/2014	Site ID:	B41W
Mobilization Date:	02/03/2014	Start Date:	02/03/2014

At approximately 1500 hrs on February 2, 2014, security officials at the Duke Energy Plant located in Eden, North Carolina noticed liquefied coal ash leaking from a buried storm sewer into the Dan River. Initial efforts by Duke Energy were not fully successful in stopping the release. The North Carolina Department of Environment and Natural Resources (NCDENR) was notified of the release by Duke Energy on February 3, 2014, and investigated the facility. Once it was determined that there was a release of coal ash (ash) the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Raleigh Outpost On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) was notified and requested to assist in the oversight of cleanup activities. Following coordination with the EPA Region 4 Telephone Duty Officer and Region 4 Removal Manager two OSCs were deployed to the scene from Atlanta, Georgia. Due to proximity and the potential for cross-regional impacts, an OSC was deployed from EPA Region 3 to provide additional assessment and oversight support.

At this time the release of ash is ongoing and currently Regions 3 and 4 are in coordination on site activities as this spill could potentially impact downstream water intakes all of which are located in Virginia. Since the spill originated in North Carolina, Region 4 has the lead on all response activities at this time.

2.0 Current Activities

The following activities occurred during this reporting period:

Unified Command

- Due to the location and possible downstream effects from the coal ash, Region 3 OSC Chris Wagner was mobilized to the site and arrived at 2300 hrs on 02/03/2014. Region 4 OSCs Eichinger and Negron arrived just after midnight on 02/04/2014. For this incident OSC Kevin Eichinger is currently the EPA Region 4 Incident Commander.
- Region 4 is currently in Unified Command with Duke Energy and NCDENR.
- Region 3 is providing OSCs (Christine Wagner / Myles Bartos) to support Region 4 and coordinate operations and State/local contacts in Region 3. OSC Wagner and Bartos have already been in touch with relevant State and local entities in VA (including Local Emergency Planning Commissions). OSC Wagner is currently on scene and will be spelled by Area OSC Bartos during the next operational period.
- Duke Energy reports the following:
 - 50,000 – 80,000 tons (60,000 – 100,000 Cubic Yards) of ash has been released to the Dan River.
 - There are two ash ponds (primary and secondary) that contain a total of approximately 1.2 million tons of coal ash.
 - The source of the release appears to be a damaged storm sewer line extending under the primary ash pond.
 - The dike wall on the river side of the primary ash pond appears undamaged and completely intact. The dike wall on the plant side of the ash pond is currently eroded and compromised, but not releasing material. The Duke Engineers state that if this dike wall fails, it will fail into the ash pond (not the Dan River).

Water Sector

- Downstream of the facility are several drinking water intakes. The first is located in the City of Danville, Virginia at approximately seven river miles downstream. The Danville water treatment plant (WTP) is aware of the incident and reported a slight increase in turbidity in the River, but otherwise do not currently appear to be impacted by the release. The additional identified water intakes are:
 - South Boston, VA at approximately 23 miles downstream

- Kerr Lake Reservoir
 - Roanoke Rapids
- Duke Energy is continuously sampling the Dan River at three locations currently at four hour intervals:
 - The release point.
 - Halfway between the facility and the Danville WTP.
 - At the WTP in Danville.
- The first sample result will be received on 2/4/2014. Duke is sampling for the full suite of metals and the standard water quality criteria. Data not available at the time of this SitRep.
- NCDENR is also obtaining numerous water quality samples and report no measurements of concern at this time.
- The City of Eden, City of Danville, and Rockingham County have been advised of the release.
- EPA Water Division has provided all National Pollutant Discharge Effluent System (NPDES) permit information for the facility.
- A drinking water intake web based map is available through the EPA intranet for use by responders in that can map drinking water intakes, springs, and wells.

Mitigation Activities

- Duke Energy attempted to plug the storm sewer line multiple times but the bladder/plug failed after head pressure behind the device increased. At this time the release to the River is ongoing but at a reduced rate from the initially reported rate of discharge.
- Plans are being evaluated to stop the release which includes filling the sewer with flowable concrete or excavation and plugging of the damaged sewer.
- Caution is being exercised in implementation of mitigation strategy due to a concern that actions could trigger collapse of the sewer line.
- Crews and equipment are mobilizing on 02/04/2014, to address the eroded and compromised dike wall on the plant side of the ash pond. A new dike wall will be constructed.
- Storm water is currently being removed from a detention area with vacuum trucks. This action is being taken to prevent additional water from entering the ash pond through the damaged sewer line.

- Duke Energy is currently developing a response plan to address the material in the Dan River. At this time the primary focus is stopping the release of material.

Public Information and Community Involvement

- At 1200 hrs on 02/04/2014, Duke Energy held a press conference to give a situational update to the media. In attendance at this meeting was the Secretary of NCDENR. For this incident NCDENR has thus far taken the role of Public Information Officer (PIO).
- EPA Region 4 Office of External Affairs has been actively involved in fulfilling information requests in coordination with external affairs programs in EPA Region 3 and EPA Headquarters.
- Region 4 Community Involvement Coordinators (CIC) are compiling a list of community contacts (e.g. elected officials and community leaders) in the immediate vicinity of the spill and will coordinate with Region 3 CICs for those contacts needed downstream.

Personnel and Work Schedules

- Crews are working 12 hour shifts around the clock:
 - 0700 hours – 1900 hours
 - 1900 hours – 0700 hours
- START has been mobilized to provide data management assistance, sampling assistance, GIS Support and documentation assistance.
- An EPA Planning Section Chief (PSC) was mobilized to the Site during the afternoon of 02/04/2014, and will arrive during the next operational period.
- Current EPA Personnel On Site:
 - 2 Region 4 On-Scene Coordinators
 - 1 Region 3 On-Scene Coordinator
 - 4 START

Regional Emergency Operation Centers

- Region 4 REOC personnel are assisting in production of SitReps and providing logistical and resource support.
- Region 3 REOC personnel are coordinating resource and situational support with field personnel and EPA Region 4 REOC.

- The Regional Incident Coordination Team (RICT) convened at 0900 hrs 02/04/2014, to brief members on current situation and request support from regional regulatory and media programs.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1- Current Site Image (Google Earth)
- 2- Area Demographic Map

Situation Updates will be posted by 1600 each day for the time being.

Attachment 1
Site Map

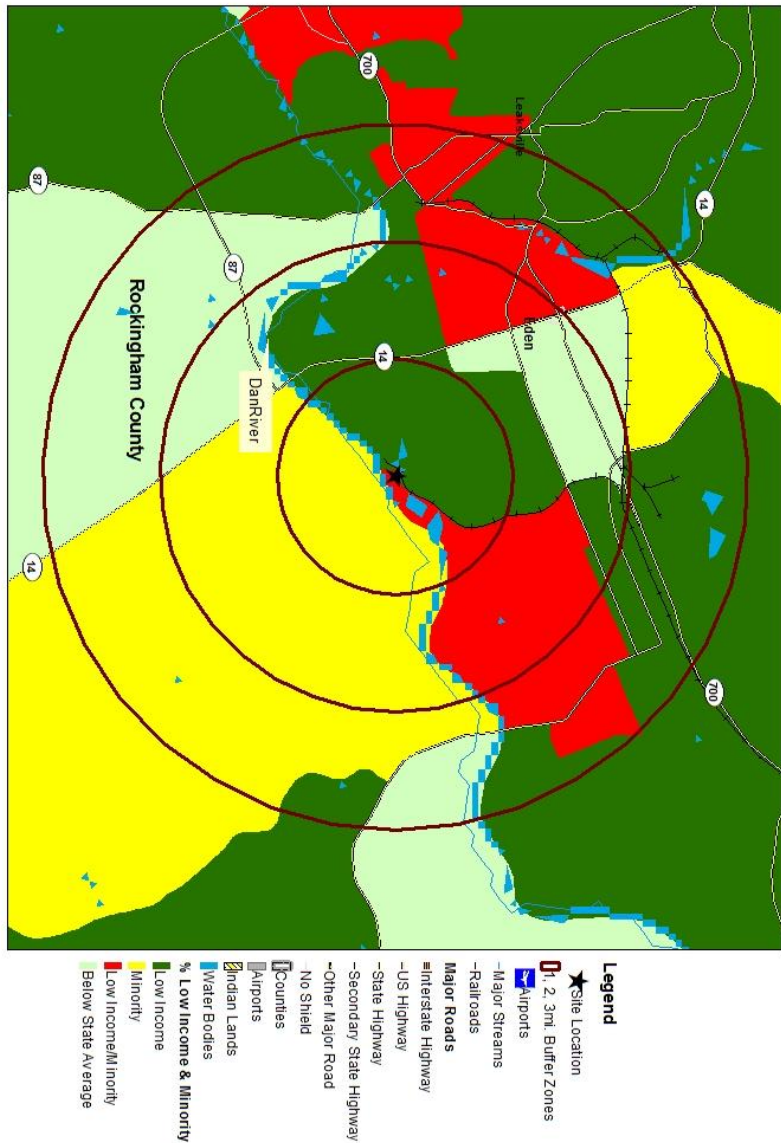


Duke Ener

S Edgewood Rd

Attachment 2
Area Demographic Map

LOW INCOME & MINORITY AREAS AROUND DUKE POWER DAN RIVER PLANT, NORTH CAROLINA



0 0.3 0.6 1.2 1.8 2.4 Miles

U.S. EPA REGION 4
OFFICE OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACCOUNTABILITY